

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 00935 301527Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

/053 W

----- 096001

R 291521Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7769

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0935

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: APPRAISAL OF NEW FEC

REF: LAGOS 809

SUMMARY: NEW FEC GIVES PROMISE OF GREATER EFFECTIVENESS THAN ITS PREDECESSOR, THOUGH MOST NEW APPOINTEES REMAIN TO BE TESTED IN CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES. NUMBER OF NEW COMMISSIONERS HAVE IN PAST BEEN MARKEDLY WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD US, WHICH MAY OFFER BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO GET FAIR HEARING FOR OUR VIEWS EVEN IF FMG POLICIES UNLIKELY BE MODIFIED. ETHNIC AND REGIONAL BALANCE OF FEC REMAINS ROUGHLY AS IN PAST. END SUMMARY

1. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, TWO MOST IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS TO BE MADE ABOUT NEW FEC ARE PROSPECT IT MAY BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ITS PREDECESSOR AND POSSIBILITY ITS MEMBERS MAY BE MORE OPEN TO PRESENTATION OF USG VIEWS ON BILATERAL AND WORLD ISSUES.

2. WHILE MOST NEW APPOINTEES ARE UNPROVEN IN CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES SUCH AS THOSE NOW BEING ASSUMED, SEEMS LIKELY FEC HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY CHANGES. CIVILIANS DROPPED FROM FEC WERE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 00935 301527Z

BY AND LARGE IT WEAKEST MEMBERS, WITH ONLY AMUNU KANO (HEALTH)

AND EKE (EDUCATION) HAVING ESTABLISHED POSITIVE REPUTATIONS FOR JOB PERFORMANCE. (FORMER PRESUMABLY OUSTED FOR OVER-ZEALOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, WHILE LATTER MAY HAVE BEEN THOUGHT INSUFFICIENTLY FORCEFUL TO HANDLE DEMANDS OF MASSIVE UPE SCHEME.) NEW COMMISSIONERS ARE YOUNGER THAN THEIR PREDECESSORS IN OFFICE, AVERAGING ABOUT FORTY, AND MOST HAVE ESTABLISHED GOOD TRACK RECORD IN PAST POSITIONS. IN ADDITION, MILITARY MEMBERS OF NEW FEC ARE WIDELY EXPECTED TO BE MORE DECISIVE AND ACTION-ORIENTED THAN FORMER CIVILIAN INCUMBENTS AND PERHAPS ALSO TO CONTITUTE CLOSER-KNIT TEAM FOR EXECUTION OF FMG POLICIES.

3. POSSIBLE GREATER RECEPTIVITY TO US VIEWS BASED ON IMMEDIATELY-AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION BEING REPORTED SEPTEL, WHICH SHOWS MAJORITY OF NEW COMMISSIONERS AS HAVING BEEN FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD US AT VARIOUS POINTS IN THEIR CAREERS. TO EXTENT THIS ATTITUDE SURVIVES IN THEIR NEW OFFICES, WE MAY BE ABLE ENJOY BETTER MINISTERIAL-LEVEL ACCESS THAN IN PAST FEW YEARS AND FIND INCREASED WILLINGNESS AT LEAST LISTEN WITH OPEN MIND TO VIEWS WE SEEK TO PRESENT. GIVEN DIVERGENCES IN NATIONAL INTERESTS OF USG AND FMG ON MANY ISSUES, THIS MAY NOT TRANSLATE INTO MODIFICATION OF FMG POLICIES, BUT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING ATMOSPHERE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. ETHNIC AND REGIONAL BALANCE OF FEC RELATIVELY UNCHANGED FROM PREVIOUS DISTRIBUTION. OF 19 MEMBERS MUST NAMED OR REAPPOINTED, 11 ARE FROM SOUTHERN STATES AND 8 FROM NORTHERN, ROUGHLY SAME AS IN PAST. YOURBA REPRESENTATION ON FEC INCREASED FROM 3 TO 5 BY ASSIGNMENT OF 4 SENIOR YORUBA OFFICERS TO REPLACE OUSTED CIVILIANS OKUNNU AND ADETORO. WHILE THIS MAY BE PRIMARILY REFLECTION OF RECENT REPORT THAT GOWON SEEKING TO MOVE YORUBA OFFICERS OUT OF SENSITIVE COMMAND AND STAFF POSTS, IT SHOULD ALSO SERVE TO REASSURE YORUBAS FEARFUL OF NORTHERN DOMINANCE IN LIGHT OF PROVISIONAL CENSUS RESULTS.

5. SEVERAL OTHER POINTS WORTHY OF NOTE IN CONNECTION WITH FORMING OF NEW FEC. FIRST IS DELAY IN ANNOUNCEMENT ITS COMPOSITION, ORIGINALLY PROMISED FOR BEGINNING OF YEAR, WHICH WELL-PLACED SOURCE HAS TOLD US RESULTED LARGELY FROM DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING SUITABLE IBO MEMBER. IN ABSENCE SENIOR IBO MILITARY OFFICERS, CIVILIAN WAS NEEDED TO REPLACE OUSTED AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 00935 301527Z

OKEZIE, AND CHOICE OF VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN AKWAEZE TO REPRESENT IBOS SEEMINGLY CONFIRMS THAT CHOICE OF APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE PRESENTED SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER INFORMATION TO DATE ABOUT INFLUENCE OF FIELD GRADE OFFICERS ON SELECTION PROCESS (LAGOS 0054), BUT FACT NONE OF CURRENT MILITARY GOVERNORS INCLUDED ON NEW FEC (SUPPOSEDLY ONE OF DEMANDS MADE BY MAJORS AND COLONELS) SUGGESTS EARLIER REPORT MAY INDEED HAVE HAD SOME VALIDITY.

6. ALSO OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT SELECTION PROCESS VERY CLOSELY HELD AMONG SENIOR MILITARY, AND CIVILIAN REAPPOINTEES AT LEAST WERE TOTALLY IN DARK ABOUT FEC COMPOSITION UNTIL OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MADE. SHAGARI, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD ALREADY MOVED FAMILY TO NORTH-WESTERN STATE; MONGUNO WAS FULLY PACKED FOR MOVE TO MAIDUGURI; AND ARIKPO HAD PUBLICLY ACCEPTED POSITION ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LEADING COMMERCIAL FIRM.

7. FINAL POINT TO WATCH IS POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF FEC BEYOND PRESENT MEMBERSHIP. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW FEC PROMISED APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONERS "IN DUE COURSE ... TO COPE WITH RAPIDLY INCREASING RESPONSIBILITIES OF FMG". READINESS EXPAND FEC SHOWN IN SPLIT OF INFORMATION AND LABOR PORTFOLIOS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY COMBINED UNDER ENAHORO, AND REPORTED PEELING OFF OF YOUTH, SPORTS, AND CULTURE TO COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL DUTIES SULEIMAN, BUT NO INDICATION YET WHAT GOWON HAS IN MIND FOR FUTURE.
REINHARDT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS00935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750035-0170
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750111/aaaaajhn.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAGOS 809
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPRAISAL OF NEW FEC
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006